

CD # 411,412,415,416

Hollis Hullinger
Great Grandson of Harvey Coe Hullinger

Cross Roads Senior Citizen Center
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My name is Ellen S. Kiever. Today we are at the Cross Roads Senior Citizen Center in Roosevelt. We are hearing from Hollis Hullinger, who has been a native of this Basin since 1914.

We want to thank him for letting us come and gather this history.

Ellen: Tell us about where you were born and your date of birth.

Hollis: I was born in Naples, in Uintah County on January 23, 1914. I grew up, with seven sons in the family. I was the next youngest. All the others are gone. I am the only one of the children that is living. My brothers were very good athletes in their day, especially Jesse. Jesse was a good baseball pitcher. He was called "Tarz" on the BYU football team, because he was such a Tarzan-like man. He boxed in one of the programs at BYU. He met his future wife there, Osa Geddes, and they were married.

Ellen: He was the Vice-Principal of the Ashley Valley Junior High when I was in Junior High a few years ago.

Hollis: My brothers, Harvey, Harold, Jesse, and Owen were all school teachers.

Ellen: And some of their children were school teachers?

Hollis: Yes.

Ellen: Who were your parents?

Hollis: My dad was Winfield Scott Hullinger Jr. He was born 14 September 1870, in Big Cottonwood Canyon, Salt Lake County.

Ellen: So this is Dr. Harvey Coe Hullinger's grandson?

Hollis: Yes. He came to the Uintah Basin with his family in 1880, I think it was. Mother was born 11 April 1873, in Levan, Juab County.

Ellen: That's okay. Tell us your mother's name.

Hollis: Emma Theresa Lybbert. They called it "Teressa" in her mother's native land of Norway.
Hollis: My father came from Salt Lake. He was about fourteen years old. My mother came from Levan that same year.

Ellen: They all came to Vernal?

Hollis: They all went to Hatch Town, where Vernal is now. Mother said that when they entered the Ashley Valley that the grass was up to the horses bellies. If you can imagine that, after living in the Uintah Basin, I don't know how they got water that much. It wasn't what these people did. It was just there.

Ellen: When your parents came to the Ashley Valley, the town of Ashley was up in the Maeser/Ashley area, there was Hatch town, so what drew them to the Naples area?

Hollis: There was a stream of water for one thing. It went right down through where the [Vernal] cemetery is now. There is a little ditch of water on each side of that cemetery. They come together down in this property that my parents lived on. They had water and they had to have water to exist. There weren't many open streams in those days.

Ellen: So whereabouts did they live in Naples?

Hollis: They lived one half mile east and a mile and a half south of the center of Vernal. The cemetery was actually part of that property.

Ellen: That is where the H section of the Vernal Cemetery comes from then. The Hullinger Section. How long did they live in Naples?

Hollis: All the rest of their lives. They only had one home. It was deeded from the government. They homesteaded there. Dad being older than mother, he had built a frame house. His mother-in-law thought he was really wealthy because he had a house like that and a team of horses and a wagon, all his own. He at least had a place to hang his hat. Mother was a very good cook, and did well to take care of whatever needed to be taken care of around the house. She was good at doing that. They build a log house with a dirt roof after a few years when they had more children and had to have more room. That did them until about 1922, then they built a two room sawed-log house. It was right close to the original dirt roof house. All of us boys slept out in the dirt roof house. Mother, dad and the girls slept in the house.

Ellen: So you had six brothers and how many sisters?

Hollis: Four sisters. Did you know Elevera Collyer? Did you know Norma McLean? Did you know Mary Manwaring? Mary was married to Arthur Manwaring and they lived across from the Central School. She was a good piano player and taught music for years on the piano. The youngest sister, Ella, died at birth in 1912.

Ellen: Do you remember when you started school?

Hollis: Yes. The first day I went to school, I was supposed to go at noon. I didn't know it but I went home with my cousin who was a year older than I was. He went home and so I went with him. After I got there, they told me I was supposed to be in school for the afternoon. We didn't know that. This was in 1922.

Ellen: Did you have a favorite teacher?

Hollis: The first grade teacher, they didn't have kindergarten, was Mary Winder. She was Joe Winder's sister. She had a little dimple in her cheek and used it favorably to us to do what we should. It was just interesting to see her smile. The clock for the school, for those three rooms in Naples ward, was in her room. I don't know how come it was, but I could tell time. I would have to go see the time, when she would tell me, and bring it back to her so she could arrange her schedule. In Naples, we played ball, had teeter-totters, and never got killed on it either. We had swings and would jump out of them.

Ellen: Where was the school located?

Hollis: In Naples, they have demolished it. It was about a mile east and nearly two miles south of the center of Vernal. It would be about a quarter mile north of the store that is down in Naples, between the church building and the store. It was a three room brick building. It was a pretty good building for that time. By 1928, there has been another three room brick structure. I went to school eight years there. I went to High School in Vernal. [200 South 600 West]. I was a big 124 lb. center on the football team.

Ellen: Oh, bless your heart. Did you win games?

Hollis: Oh sure. We played Duchesne and Rangley, Colorado. We played a team at BYU who was a winning team down in that whole section. They won from us too, but then, we had a chance to play them. We stayed in the Roberts Hotel on Center Street and about first south in Provo.

Ellen: That was an exciting thing for you!

Hollis: Oh yeah! We never stayed in a Hotel before. We went to Ferron and Huntington to play football, too.

Ellen: When you went that way, was the road up over Indian Canyon or did you have to go over Nine Mile Canyon?

Hollis: It was the Indian Canyon Road.

Ellen: What was your bus like?

Hollis: Several cars, and then the people put us up for the night.

Ellen: What year was this? What year did you graduate from High School?

Hollis: 1932.

Ellen: What was your favorite subject in school?

Hollis: Well, I guess gymnasium. I liked to play ball. I don't know that there was a special subject. I was pretty good in arithmetic. I got the times tables all memorized and I still know them off by heart. I don't have to figure them out. I just know them. Arthur Manwaring, my brother-in-law, was one of the teachers in Naples ward. My brother, Harold, was another teacher there.

Ellen: Did Harold teach you in school? Was that hard for you?

Hollis: Yes, Sixth Grade. I don't think it was hard.

Ellen: Did they have dances and activities? Did you attend?

Hollis: Oh, they didn't have any of them. There was one day a week that they had religious class in one room of the school house, all the kids that would stay. It was held after school. I stayed for this class. It most likely was not held during the cold weather in the winter. I suppose it was more in the spring and fall. School started in September and let out in May.

Ellen: Did you have a Christmas break?

Hollis: I suppose so.

Ellen: What did you want to be when you grew up?

Hollis: Well, as I got old enough to go to college, I thought about being a doctor because of our great grandfather but I had to work to get to college to pay my way, and at twenty-five cents an hour, I never got very far. I got discouraged.

Ellen: You would have been a great doctor, I'm sure.

Hollis: Going back to Harold, just for information, he taught school in Davis ward also. He was the principal. He had to ride a horse about three and a half miles one way. They paid him \$750 a year for being a school teacher and a principal.

Ellen: Well, 25 cents an hour is not much more than that, is it? [25 cents an hour times eight hours a day equals two dollars a day, times five equals ten dollars a week, times fifty-two equals \$520 a year.] Did you have anything funny happen to you at school?

Hollis: Well, there was one kid said that he could whip me. I said I can beat you with one hand tied behind me. Anyhow, I had one arm tucked down in my bib overalls and I had him bleedin' all over the country. He didn't bother me anymore.

Ellen: Did you have friends. Tell me about your classmates.

Hollis: It was an interesting thing. Hatches and Walkers all went to school in Vernal but they (the Hatches) went to church in Naples. I never could understand that. The Walkers, Vern Hatch , Ralph Walker and I were real good friends. In the summertime we generally found a swimming pool someplace. We dammed the gulch off and made us a deep hole, one that we could dive into and so forth. We would pull the boards off and let it go down when we were done. One of the problems was the neighbor kids from the other end of town would come there and they wouldn't pull the boards out and it caused the dam to wash out so we had problems there. The boys never knew there was any swim suits and my nieces, Veon McLean and Lorraine Hullinger, they wanted to go swimming too. They would go back and tell my mother. She would come and shoo us out.

Ellen: Where did you go to college?

Hollis: I went to BYU for one year. I was twenty-one when I started.

Ellen: When your great grandfather became a doctor I read, and got to write, the chapter on him for the book that Doris Burton is writing about the doctors of our area. He worked very hard at the schooling he had to get. He didn't have to take all the classes that would have been required of you, and look at what they have to have now to become a doctor.

Hollis: That medicine cabinet that they have at the DUP Museum over there [Vernal]: that is all the medicine that there was in Vernal. He made formulas and people had his formulas after he died. He had a farm down on Ashley Creek, about where the highway crossed on the way to Jensen. He had that because there was water there. He had some good Indian friends. He rode his horse to help the women have their babies.

Ellen: When did you get married? How did you meet your wife?

Hollis: We were both working in the Mutual in Naples ward. I was the Superintendent and she did the music. She played the piano. Her family lived in the lane that went down by the church house. It was the Byron Goodrich property. She was Elaine Goodrich. Working in the MIA, we just got to know each other better. She and Eunice Johnson, Wallace Johnson's sister, they arranged to get off work in Vernal about the same time that I did. I would take them home in my little Ford automobile.

Ellen: So you had a car!

Hollis: Yeah, I have had a car nearly all my life. Elaine was very good at music and drama. She liked those things in school. She helped with the office in Uintah High School. This was in 1935 or 1936. As time went on, well we would have married a year sooner but she had to support her brother, Lynn, on his mission. She worked at the Express office for the Wallis'. Muriel Wallis was the stake young women's MIA president at the time we were courting. She was a fine woman.

It was with my little red Ford, it was about a 32 model. It was the first gear shift, up until then, it was levers that you would pull the gas down and the spark down to give it the right mixture to run. Anyway, this car, I had it full of people to take to this program in Roosevelt, an instruction program, where we were taught dancing and other things of that nature. We went over for this program, the evening meeting, and it snowed while we were in there. It had snowed about ten inches, there were no snowplows. When the person offered the closing prayer, he asked for the Lord to help us get home safely, and there was something that went through me. It was different from an ordinary prayer. When we got over to where the road turns to Fort Duchesne, there two cars were just stopped right in the road, one to the side of the other. I was coming along, the lights in those days were like driving with candles, I was ready to step on the brake and go down off the grade rather than to run into those two cars. I looked and saw one just creeping along and I just went around those two cars just barely missing them. Bill Wallis later on mentioned that he saw that little car with the red wheels going around those two cars.

Another thing that happened about that time, the MIA played basketball in the church house like they do now. They didn't have an extra room, like they do now, the gymnasium or special room. We went to Tridell for one night, the Naples ward did. It was a different year but when we came out it had snowed again, it was again about six to eight inches. There were not even any tracks. There had been no cars go along. We walked, two of us, in front of the car (Dell Goodrich's Whippet automobile). We would change off, to keep us on the road. We got down to where the Lapoint school was and Hannah Richards, who was Weldon Richards' sister, was a teacher there. He didn't know how to get a hold of her so we went around the school house and found a window unlocked. We crawled inside, it happened to be the supply room with a little heater in there. We built a fire with some kindling and coal. We slept on the floor and kept from freezing to death. The next morning we woke, continued to Vernal and went to school that day. We didn't leave a note for them. We left while it was still dark.

I lived in just one home until I was married. I have lived in two homes during my life time. [The address of our home in Roosevelt is 90 West 100 North.] We rented a short time, while I was getting settled in Roosevelt. We operated the service station there and little buildings around it, which were cabins for rent. This service station was where the Frontier Grill is now.

There had been a building in Roosevelt on about 1st South and 1st East, that was the only building big enough for churches or anything else. I played basketball there one time with my Naples Ward team, when I was about 16. It burned down. Roosevelt Ward had to use the High School on that little hill for Church gatherings for a couple of years while they were building a new church house.

This new church house, which is dated 1930 on the plaque by it, they shipped everything

to Price on rail and then had to haul it to Roosevelt on wagons from Price. There was quite a few of the hard working people that weren't very good church members but really did lots of work on that building. That building is still being used and has been renovated at least four times.

Ellen: What day were you and your wife married?

Hollis: The 6th of October, 1938. I had a 1937 Ford car. I bought it new from Showalter's. I had to pay fifty dollars a month to pay it off. The car cost \$750 so I was able to pay it off in about fifteen months or so.

Ellen: Was coming up with that fifty dollars a month hard for you?

Hollis: Well, I was able to do that. I worked at a service station at that time. Prior to that time, before I was married, I went shearing sheep each spring. I sheared with my brother, Owen. The first year I sheared was for Covey and Blainey in Wyoming. There were thirty shearers and a fleece tyer for about every four or five shearers. I got so I could do 100 sheep a day with the blades.

Ellen: This was with the hand blades? My, you must have had strong hands.

Hollis: You know, that is the funny thing. They got so I would close them that far [about half way] but if I closed them all the way my hands would pain like everything. We got twelve cents a head so I was making \$12 a day and at that time the wool trompers would get \$3 a day.

Ellen: Tell me the difference between a Fleece Tyer and a Wool Tromper.

Hollis: The tyer would tie the fleece up for different shearers. Each shearer would have so many strings that he would get paid for at the end of the day. One tyer would go along and wrap up those fleeces so they could be carried to market and he would throw them up to where the tromper was.

Ellen: I am familiar with the tromping of wool but did not know the fleeces were tied together first before they were put in the sacks.

Hollis: I had the service station and was operating here in 1938, where the Frontier Grill is now, at the time we were married. The Utah Oil Company was the name of the company that I was with at that time. It is defunct now. The type of gasoline and oil was Bico Motor Oil and Pep 88 Gas. In 1939, when the United States declared war on Germany, I had the responsibility to see that all the gas and oil was properly rationed. The gasoline, oil, tires and all kinds of foods had ration stamps for, including up to one tenth of a penny ration stamp. ("One tenth of a penny" was a token made of aluminum.) There was a ration board in town and the stamps had to go through the board. I don't remember how the money

actually got back into the business owner's hands. Then from the service station I got the first indication that I might be going to go into the service so I sold the service station and didn't make much off from it. In fact, I had borrowed \$400 to go into business from Cheney in Vernal [Jess Cheney-Uintah State Bank]. I went to work in the Post Office and I had the chance to buy a little farm of forty acres, so I bought that. It put me into the agriculture business, so I got a deferment because I was producing food and fiber, which I didn't know I would get. Anyway, then as time went on I was put in the Bishopric so I got another deferment, a clergy deferment. I didn't know that would happen.

Ellen: Do you think someone was watching over you?

Hollis: By the time I finally got full clearance in 1945, Japan capitulated. I didn't go into the service. I was ready to go. I had my first physical. I had a good strong heart and everything. I was ready to go in but I never was called. I appreciate the flag, I'll tell you. We live in a wonderful country.

Ellen: You lived in Roosevelt all your married life. The farming, is that what you did for your livelihood?

Hollis: No. After the war was over I had the franchise for the Buick automobiles. I built the Buick building. You know where the center of town is. One block east of that is the Turner's on one side and the Buick building on the other.

Ellen: Is that where Jay Gates Chevrolet was?

Hollis: Yes, I built that building. I had the Buick agency at that time. Every car that I sold, I had to take a car in for it, you know how it was. I got more used cars that I could operate and I had a chance to sell the building. Right at that same time, Clair Larsen wanted to sell his bottling business for \$60,000. He had the Pepsi, 7-up, and Dr. Pepper. I sold the Buick building for \$25,000 and needed to borrow \$35,000. I went to the bankers here in Roosevelt. They would not let me have the money. I went to Vernal. I was in N. J. Meagher's office. He asked me how much I had towards it. I told him \$25,000. He said "You have. Yeah, you can have the money." I came back to Roosevelt, Clair Larsen wanted to know where I was getting the money. I told him from N.J. Meagher. He went down and talked to the banker here and the banker capitulated. So I ended up getting the money from Roosevelt. I appreciated N. J. Meagher, he knew that times had been kind of tough. For me to have \$25,000 in cash, there weren't very many people that could do that. I bought the bottling company. We were in business for fifteen years there. The business served areas from Manila, Utah, to Indian Canyon and from Daniel's Canyon to Maybell, Colorado. We had real stiff competition in that business. The Coca Cola Company in Provo owned the bottling business in Vernal. They were able to easily put out coolers here and there. I had to really work on it. I had it for fifteen years and I outgrew the business and I had to either sell it or start over, 'cause the building was just too little and the bottling machinery was inadequate and I just had run every bottle I could

through it. I had to either buy more equipment or liquidate. I didn't have any sons that wanted the business so I decided to sell it. Since then I built several building out along the west highway and sold them.

Ellen: It sounds like you have done well in your life.

Hollis: I think so. I have been fortunate and been able to pay my way. We built this home in 1941 and we are still using it. My first wife, Elaine, died in 1983. I remarried Grace Bowman on June 23, 1984. We were married in the Provo temple. We were married in a time only ceremony. Her husband had died about the same time my wife died. I was the stake president before that and Marian Bowman was one of my High Councilors.

Ellen: How long have you been married to Grace? Is she still living?

Hollis: Yes, she is in real poor health. We have been married twenty-three years. I married Elaine and we were married forty-five years and she died of a heart attack.

Ellen: So, tell me about your church callings.

Hollis: When I first came to Roosevelt, I was called to be the young men's Superintendent of the mutual. In fact, for one week I was the Superintendent of the Naples and Roosevelt young men's organization. I was a counselor to Bishop Horace Ritchie, and then to Ezra J Nixon. In 1947 I was sustained to be the Bishop of the Roosevelt Ward with Randall Stewart and Howard Ivory as my counselors. We had bought a cow herd for the ward farm and were thriving as a bishopric. Things were going pretty smooth. Ray Dillman was the President of the Stake. He had been in about seven or eight years and it was time for his release. It was the August 20, 1949, the church officials had come for conference. They asked the Bishops of the stake to come to the Stake President's office. They interviewed us one at a time, asking us to suggest who we thought might qualify for the new stake president. I suggested a couple of men who had been college graduates that I thought worthy. After arriving home, I was getting ready for bed when the phone rang. They asked if I could come back over to the stake office. They told me that I had been selected to become the Stake President. I was really surprised because of all the authority and experience that the group had. It made me just really concerned, to the point that I never slept that night. The next day, I needed to select counselors, and there had been several members of the high council that had gone to seed and needed replacing. I wanted to mention how inadequate I felt that I was prepared to be a stake president. I was thirty-three years old, quite young. They are doing that a lot now, but up till then it seems like the only ones they called were seasoned men who had been preparing for that. I had never sat on the High Council, even in a meeting where they were, or within a Stake Presidency. In those days, they had quarterly conference for two days. They had Saturday meetings and Sunday meetings. On Sunday night, there was an MIA session. I thought that I needed to be there. I remember I felt kind of kind of woozy so I sat near the back. When the meeting got going, I got really sick. I am sure that some of the reason that I felt

so ill was because of the pressure that I was going through.

I served for seven years as Stake President. During that period of time, the General Authorities were in a lot of welfare work. This was our major assignment. The Stakes were asked to get programs started in each Ward. There were nine Wards and they all got some type of welfare project from the Church Welfare Program. The Church asked our region out here to buy a regional dairy farm. They parlayed on it and didn't do anything with it. There were Uintah Stake, Duchesne Stake, Altamont and Roosevelt Stakes that were supposed to work together to buy this farm. They looked at some farms in the Duchesne area and other places. Finally, they looked at one down southeast of town here. I said, "If we are supposed to buy it. Why don't we buy it?" So we did. It was quite a successful operation for a few years.

Ellen: When you bought the farm in Roosevelt, did that make you mainly responsible for it?

Hollis: Each Stake pitched in and tried to do their part. They were pretty efficient. While I was Stake President, Spencer W. Kimball, at that time, was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He was put over the Indian program of the church. That is when this Indian placement program started. My being right here in the reservation, he made me chairman of this group. I was a lot younger than any of them. They were all twenty years older. Anyway, we did supply missionaries. At that time, there were about 200 missionaries, as I recall, that we had at one time. There were just almost as many as the Indians themselves. They never did get the Indians to come out except when they would feed them. It was a real job.

Ellen: How long were you Stake President?

Hollis: About seven years. I went in 1949 to 1956.

Ellen: Who were your counselors?

Hollis: To begin with Dr. R. Vernon Larsen and W. Russell Todd were counselors. Dr. Larsen was a counselor and the only doctor in the area. He had his hands full. Right at this time Roosevelt Ward's Bishop, Randall Stewart, was helping cut down a big cottonwood tree on our Ward farm. He was Bishop of the Ward after I was released, and anyway the tree started to fall and instead of him stepping to the side he tried to outrun the tree. A limb about the size of my arm hit him right in the head. Dr. Larsen and I had to go tell his wife.

Ellen: Was that the hardest thing that you have ever had to do?

Hollis: I think that was the hardest thing. He had two little children and a good wife. Dr. Larson was called to be the bishop of the ward. I knew it would be a hard thing for him but he was the best there was to have. Howard Ivory became my counselor. I was put back in as Bishop of the Roosevelt Ward the second time 20 years after the first

time. I sat on the Stake High Council for two or three years and found out the work of the High Council. We had at that time three members of the stake presidency who were all in ill health. Things just piled up and didn't get done. Two of them died in office. Did you know a Floyd Labrum? He was the last one, and he lived until about a year ago now. I was released from the High Council when I was called as the Stake Patriarch in 1972. I was that until I think it was 1991.

Ellen: I thought that the Patriarch was a lifetime calling.

Hollis: It is, but they have to be sustained to be over a certain area. I can still give patriarchal blessings to my own blood descendants. I have been set apart as a sealer [LDS Temples] in the temple. I worked in the Provo temple for about thirteen years as a sealer and then the Vernal temple for a year. I got a good letter from Venil Johnson. He said he hated to lose me as a sealer. I have had so much experience at the Provo temple that I didn't have to have much education. My schooling has been church work and civic work.

Ellen: Don't you think that is what counts?

Hollis: Yes.

Ellen: Can we talk about your family?

Hollis: All my children have been married in the temple. I had seven children: three daughters and four sons. Gilbert is the oldest. He married Arake Horrocks of Neola. They had four sons. After Arake's death, he married Alice Justice of Lapoint. Faye comes next. She married David Crapo of Myton. They had eleven children. Her husband died a few years ago. She married Hugh Girsberger. Then comes David. He married Elaine Hiatt from Mt. Airy, North Carolina. They have six children. Then comes Phillip. Philip married Sharon Barrett of Bluebell, and they have three children. Then comes John who married Korinne Giles from Morgan, and they have six children. Teresa is my next. She married Harold Munn from Lompoc, California, and they have eight children. Amelia, my last child, is married to Dennis Garner from Rupert, Idaho. They have six children. My kids have all done well in a monetary way, not wealthy, but healthy.

Ellen: What makes you proud to be who you are?

Hollis: Going back to my very early days, I was called for mission preparation. We went into a class for missionary training. When they talked with me about being the Young Men's Superintendent of the mutual in Naples, I said, "They have called me to go to this school preparatory to go on a mission." The Bishop said, "Well, there are times when we need missionaries at home as much as we do in the mission field. Let's have a meeting on this." He called Byron Goodrich (my future father-in-law) who was in the Uintah Stake Presidency, and Ross Merrell. Those two, the Bishop and I got in a meeting together. It was their consensus that I take the job of the Young Men's Superintendent instead of

going on a mission right then. I used that as a reason to be very faithful in the church. I made it my mission that every office I held I tried to do my very best. In your interrogation here it asked how far I went in school. I only went to one year of college and I felt that I could do as much at home as any other way. I tried hard to be a good bishop, or good stake patriarch or whatever.

Ellen: You have also been a good provider for your family.

Hollis: We have had a good living. It was rough for a while. Seven little children to care for. The Church always has been first in my life. I wonder how difficult it is going to be to have a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Ellen: Did you ever receive any awards from school or church activity?

Hollis: Not very much. I did get a Block Y for pinning my man from UCLA when I was in college. I wrestled and boxed in high school. We went to Huntington and they came to me and said they wanted me to wrestle and box both that night. They asked which I wanted to do first. I said, "Well let me box first. I'll knock him out in a hurry, then I won't be tired." I knocked out almost every boy I fought. When I wrestled that one they had that night I can't remember what happened but I know he didn't pin me. I didn't lose. The next day we played them in football, too. They used to do everything they could with the least transportation costs possible. Anyway, here came three men right up where I was. One of them was carrying the ball and I don't know how I did it but I missed those two and I hit the fellow with the ball and knocked him out. I probably just knocked the breath out of him. He couldn't move for a little bit. That was just part of my job. I entered the Golden Glove Tournament in Salt Lake City. The first night I won the bout. It wasn't too difficult. If I could have gotten my second opponent the first night, I could have beaten him because he had to take about five or six pounds of weight off from him to weigh in. He had to work out and get sweaty and everything. If I could have got him the first night I could have knocked him out. He had a chance to come back and they didn't weigh again so he got to eat to get his strength back. He didn't knock me out, but I didn't knock him out neither.

Ellen: We have a few minutes left and I would like to talk a little about Vernal and more of your memories there. Is that okay?

Hollis: Sure.

Ellen: Can you remember any of the business or buildings of interest that you remember?

Hollis: Highway 40 from the west came down what is now 1500 South to the Gene Woodruff/Reader corner and turned north, then came over a mile and a half on what is now 5th West to Vernal's Main Street. If they hadn't done that, Vernal would have been sitting there high and dry. I don't know who instigated that diagonal road through there

but that is what saved Vernal. We lived on the corner where they came back into the highway. That is the Vernal Avenue. Every spring we would almost have to keep a horse harnessed to pull people out of the mud, it was so deep along that road.

Ellen: Now was this Highway 40 or the Vernal Avenue?

Hollis: No, it was Highway 40. They would come right up that street by our place and hit 5th East. For funerals or anything that way we had to have two horses to pull that hearse up there.

Ellen: They used to really decorate for funerals: draping the church in ribbons and white drapes.

Hollis: They didn't have flowers. They had to do it with clothes and what they had.

Ellen: What businesses do you remember?

Hollis: The old Co-op building, that was a big business of Vernal. If they wanted anything in Vernal they could get it at the Co-op. There was also the Con Wagon and Machinery Company. CWM. Consolidated Wagon and Machinery.

Ellen: Where was that located. I have never heard of it.

Hollis: I have kind of forgotten that. I had an experience on that Cobblers Corner that really shocked me. The attendant had been on a mission for the church. Now he was working as a gas station attendant. I happened to be there one day and he was smoking. I was so surprised to see that. It really had an affect on me. I know of one other man that smoked the whole time he served his mission.

Ellen: Did you like becoming a grandfather?

Hollis:

Ellen: So how many grandchildren do you have?

Hollis: I have forty-four grand and almost eighty great. I kept track up to about seventy five and then I gave it to my daughter. She is supposed to keep it up. You know I have wondered why I didn't react more to my first grandchild. We have such good grandchildren. They have been living a little way from us. We have been trying to travel to get to see them as often as we could, but the last four or five years we haven't done much traveling.

Ellen: Do you still drive?

Hollis: Yes. I still have my license. I don't drive the highway if I can help it. It is too busy.

Ellen: When you remarried did you and your wife live in your home?

Hollis: No, I thought she was going to but she liked her home and she was the one in it more than I was. We have kept both of them. There wasn't room in her house to put my stuff. When our family comes to see us they stay at my home. We just have a hotel for them.

Ellen: We have about ten minutes left. Do you want to say anything to your posterity who will be reading this history in future days?

Hollis: Well I hope that they respect their privileges in the United States of America, for one thing. I hope they will remember the Church and their responsibility to it also. They must keep their tithing up and other donations where needed. Where people are needy, their fast offerings go for that purpose and we need to help those people who are needy, as well as our own. We are very fortunate to have children that have children that are obedient and living the commandments. We have built a little park up in Hanna. We got it for the purpose of family reunions and things of that nature. We do want to have them all come and visit us. Last summer when it was hot, we raked the sage brush into piles and last Saturday we went up and burned the piles. We waited till snow was on the ground and didn't have to worry about fires. We put in a 30 X 40 pavilion and we put in a twenty foot extension because it wasn't big enough. We have flush restrooms and a shower in case they want to stay for a few days. We have parking on one level. We can put twenty-five or thirty RV's and campers on the property. We have a big family reunion once a year. If any of the family wants to use it for an overnight or weekend, they are welcome to do that. We have put up another utility building. When we put up the original building we thought there was plenty of room for storage. We ran out of storage, so last summer, the last thing we built was a building 12 X 16 and put it back in the woods so it would not be an attraction to others.

Ellen: Do you have much vandalism?

Hollis: You know that is an interesting thing. The first year that I left my motor home there. To keep it licensed and registered, I licensed it that year then locked it up and the thieves got in and broke the windows, cut the screens and didn't get a thing out of it cause we didn't leave anything in there. I decided I would just leave the motor home unlocked and haven't had any vandalism since. I was there last Saturday to look it over and it looks just like I left it. When the children mention that little park they get to appreciate what has been done. I have put money there for our family. We have refrigerators and cooking utensils and we can handle a crowd.

Ellen: It was such a pleasure to meet you. I have enjoyed meeting posterity of Harvey Coe Hullinger. I was an honor for me.

Hollis: You probably don't know much about how we got that headstone (monument) in there, do you?

Ellen: What headstone?

Hollis: I didn't feel that it was necessary to have a bronze statue or anything of that nature. My son, John, has connections where he gets the stones for the mortuaries. I decided that we would make it 101 inches high, an inch for every year of his life. He lived to be 101 years old. John ordered the stone. By the time we needed it, it wasn't here. It was shipped some time before but there had been a wreck and broke some of the stones in two. We didn't know whether that stone had been broken. We went ahead and made the base out of concrete. We planned for this to take place on his birthday in the year of 1997. This granite company in Salt Lake that makes headstones and so forth, they had a truck there ready to put these stones on them to bring them to Salt Lake. Our stone was not broken. They got it to Salt Lake and worked on it all night long and the next day to get it in shape. We went ahead and made arrangement for the program which we had. The stone was finally erected about twelve midnight. Our program was arranged for eight o'clock the next morning. People wondered what I was going to do. I said, "We are going to have that stone in place." I didn't worry about it. It just seemed like it was going to be there and it was. I went to the DUP and asked them about putting that on their property and they said, "We sure would like to have it." It is right out on the front of the museum by the flag where people can see it. We had a reunion then, we had people come from California, and from the east. We had about 450 people come, all posterity of Harvey Coe Hullinger.

Hollis: I want to tell you about Jacob Lybbert. He had been a teacher of the Seminary and his wife died, and he was going to marry Arva Eaton. We left Vernal and I was going to ride with them in their car. They had an old Gardner automobile. It was quite a nice car. We left Vernal at about ten o'clock in the morning. We got to Roosevelt, out west of there about five miles, there was a flume that crossed the road. We went up by that flume to have lunch. We got back in the car and went to Provo. We got there after dark at night. We stayed with Charles Iverson. The next day we went to Salt Lake and Jake and Arva were married in the Salt Lake Temple. I saw a train. We were in a hotel on about 5th south. We stayed two nights and then the next day we went up through Logan and on to Preston and on to **Banida**, Idaho. That is where I stayed for a summer and worked for my brother, Jesse, and his brother-in-law, Stewart. I stayed up there and worked on a big ranch. It was dry farming on half the ranch and I could put four horses on a plow and one pulling a harrow and we could make four trips in half a day around the field. I could do eight trips a day around that field in a day, the field was that big. I was so homesick, I was fifteen years old. I just about died from being homesick.

Second Session:

Feb.21, 2007

Hollis: We talked about everything and it seemed like we were just on my early days.

Ellen: Yes, we skipped around a lot. Hit various parts of your life.

Hollis: I had a marker in somewhere. This is just scribbling. That is what I do anyhow. I just scribble. I can't write anymore. [Hollis is looking in his history book] Let's go to page 94. I wrote that in about being bishop in 1947 and was called to stake president in 1949. The year I was bishop again.

Ellen: You have page 78 and 86 from your history book. It looks like you have a list of things that you would like to talk about.

Hollis: Yes. Page 78. Well this was when I was released from the Stake Presidency.

Ellen: Today is February 14th, 2007. Happy Valentine's Day to you, Hollis. We're here again today with Hollis Hullinger. He will be telling more highlights of his life.

Ellen: Do you remember who interviewed you? Who ordained you a High Priest?

Hollis: I was ordained a High Priest by Lee A. Palmer, and a Bishop by Joseph Fielding Smith. I was ordained a Patriarch by Elder Thomas S. Monson. When I was notified that I was to be the Stake President, I was really surprised, what with all the authority and experience that the group that had been interviewed that day had had. It made me just really concerned, to the point that I never slept that night.

Ellen: Did you have to have your counselors selected?

Hollis: That was one of the things that I had to have done. Not only the counselors but there had been several members of the high council, being old and gone to seed. That is another thing, it is High Councilors instead of High Councilmen. You will see that in my history if you had read it. General Authorities send all their correspondence and so forth to the Stake President and then he disseminates whatever is necessary. That is some of the reason that I felt so ill that night at this Sunday evening session. I just couldn't stay there to it. I had to go home. Then anyway, I served for seven years as Stake President. During that period of time, the General Authorities were in a lot of welfare work in those days. This was our major assignment of the Stake. We were to see about getting welfare programs started in each ward. There were nine wards, as I recall, at that time. They all got some type of welfare project for the general church welfare program. If I had time I think I could find that in my book.

Ellen: Can you give me an example?

Hollis: One of them was, when I went in as a Bishop, they asked us to have a beef project. We didn't have any money to get started with. We had a little farm. I thought that since the church has asked us to do this, it was obvious that I get on it. In looking at finances, we were able to borrow from the Church a small amount of money, \$2000 or \$3000. I can't remember just how much. It went into a beef project. We raised calves to beef size and then shipped them to where they finished them off for beef for the Church. We had about ten or twelve cows that calved that spring. We got into that as a bishopric. We got nine Wards that got projects while I was Stake President. That was one of the things we accomplished, in general, to get the welfare program operating in the whole Stake and not just one or two Wards.

At this same time while I was Stake President, the church operated a mine in Carbon County. President David O. McKay was Church president at that time. He invited the Bishops of this area to a meeting inside the entrance to the mine. It was an interesting thing to have all the General Authorities of the Church, who were over welfare programs to be down in the entrance of the mine that way. They put a lot of emphasis on welfare. That is what the Church was doing. You recall the depression was in 1929, and the church never wanted to be in the position again where they were completely broke and not producing food and so forth. When it first started, President Heber J. Grant was the President of the Church. I remember they wrote a letter, to let us know that they didn't want welfare, what is that word I want-where they give it without help like England was doing, we give it without work. Socialized type of welfare. They didn't want us to have programs where people received it for nothing. We need to find that word. Anyway, we did have good cooperation from all the Wards in getting these welfare projects going. By doing that, we didn't feel like we were sponging off the Church if we needed to dip into the fast offering fund for a little cash. We had people work for what they did. For instance, on the Ward farm we didn't have daylight savings time and we had more time in the mornings to do a little work. We could haul our hay or brand the cattle at six in the morning. It made it so we had some morning time to do things of that nature. The district out here was to get a welfare farm in dairying. I went to the first meeting with the Stake Presidents. There were four stakes at that time in this area. There were Duchesne, Altamont, Roosevelt and Uintah. There was only one stake in each of these areas. In this meeting they mentioned that the General Authorities wanted us to get this milk project going. We had enough cows to produce milk and ship it to Salt Lake City to be processed. I said, "If we are supposed to do it, let's do it." Within a couple of months we had a nice farm down about two miles out of Roosevelt. We raised alfalfa and corn for silage.

Ellen: Did the members donate their equipment for baling the hay?

Hollis: The project had some equipment but the members also donated time and equipment. They did come in from the Wards with corn cutting outfits. Harvesting equipment would follow one after another. We got that in in a hurry and got it covered. What ever projects we did, we did with a lot of men. We had good support from all the region. They would send car load after car load depending on what we needed. We did get a lot of people and,

nearly all the feed we had, we raised. We were able to ship a lot of milk to the general cannery. That was when the first tank trucks were used. Up till then, they would ship it in ten gallon cans. From that point, they shipped it in the big tank trucks, the stainless steel tanks.

One of the things we sort of centered on was getting ordination from the Aaronic Priesthood of adult men, so that they were able to do a Melchizedek Priesthood work instead of an Aaronic Priesthood work. I remember President Kimball in my release mentioned that someplace. He said there was fewer percentage, I will find that and read it.

In getting a Bishop, one of the things they emphasized in getting a bishop was to get a good wife with him too. Among the things they said was we don't expect them to be perfect, but we don't want them to have certain traits that would degrade the church.

For some reason or another, the Stake at that time didn't worry about some of the things that we were asked to do, it seemed as if. They were supposed to send in a quarterly summary of the work of the stake. When I went in there were twelve years, forty-eight quarterly reports, to catch up. I assigned John Swenson, the stake clerk at that time, and Katherine Jackson Taylor to see what they could do about getting this thing put together. They flew at it, and within a year, we got those twelve years caught up and sent in. I remember, I took the trunk of my car full, two or three times, of stuff to go into the church. I took books and records to the office buildings. These two people did a good job and cleared up those twelve years. They made it so we were caught up with the church, in that area.

In the church, I might go back just a moment, while I was Bishop they divided the Wards and I went in as Bishop of First Ward. Elder LeGrande Richards, after we had been in for a few years, was our visiting General Authority. He said, "Bishop Hullinger, I would like to talk with you." We went back into the Stake President's office. Among other things, he said, "How many people are attending in your Ward?" He noticed that we had made some improvements. When I moved to Roosevelt we had about eleven percent that came to Sacrament Meeting. We had a big Ward, about 1200 people in one ward. They divided it and I became First Ward Bishop. After we had had it for a period of time, Bishop Richards wanted to know what percentage we had. I told him that we had about eighteen percent attendance at Sacrament Meeting. We had about doubled what we had before then. He said, "Bishop Hullinger, I was a bishop in California and I got eighteen percent. I would be ashamed if I were you." I thought, well here is the best bishop in the Church that they had just put in as Presiding Bishop. He was bishop of a ward in California and got eighteen percent. I got about seventeen or eighteen percent in our ward. I thought I was doing pretty good to double it. While I was in, we increased to about thirty seven percent, just about double the eighteen again. We had four Wards now instead of two. That is why I was surprised at Bishop Richards, he was so frank with me. Since that time all the Wards have gone up to fifty percent or better. As far as percentages, when I was released as Stake President, we had eighty-seven percent Ward Teaching. Elder Kimball said, "That was an excellent record. I notice that your people must be the leaders with few exceptions and we are very proud of them." I appreciate President Kimball. While he was in the Quorum of the Twelve, he was assigned over the

Indian program of the church. Where they had the placement program, he came out time after time to do that. When he was here he stayed in our home, he would stay over night with us. He, almost, became one of our family. He was a wonderful man and we surely did appreciate him. He was such a, well, he put himself on the level of who he was with. He went down to my farm, when I had to milk some cows. He and Clifford Young came out in connection with this work of Indians and Scouting. It wasn't Clifford Young, it was S. Dilworth Young, who was over the scouting in Odgen for a period of time. We enjoyed his visits also when he came. Elder Matthew Cowley was the first General Authority that visited after I went in as Stake President. He was in the South Pacific Area for years and years. He almost became like one of them. He had a lot of faith apparently. People would bring their child to him and say, "This little girl is blind. We need to have her repaired." He would have the power to do it. He was a special man in faith, apparently.

When I went in as Stake President, for some reason or another, the Stake never had any operating funds for anything. They just were broke. I talked this over with the High Councilors. We decided to have a special fast day in our Stake for funds. I will read this paragraph from my history: " We have enjoyed prosperity to great extent in the Stake. When I went in, I recall, because of various conditions, we didn't have enough budget to operate on. Our finances were down and many of the Wards were unable to pay their way. We called for a special fast day throughout the stake for the purpose of seeing if we could not increase the finances of the stake. We needed sufficient to operate on. From that day to the present, we have never lacked for funds in the stake to carry on the type of program that we have wanted to administer. We have tried not to be careless with funds that came in. We have been careful with them but we have had sufficient to operate on and take care of all the things that need to be taken care of." It was an interesting thing. There was one Bishopric that didn't feel like they had to have a special fast day, so they didn't. They were the only ones we had trouble getting to pay their way. The Church had a system of putting money away for whatever was essential, an emergency.

To make finances, one thing we did was to put on a rodeo. I came up with an idea that carried over. We put it on for so much per person or family for a ticket. People thought we were crazy and that nobody would come. We were able to make quite a bit of money from the rodeos to pay our portion toward a new building. In three or four years time, by the time we got ready to build the Stake Center, we turned \$50,000 over to the Church to do that. We were on a fifty/fifty labor and finance thing. With \$50,000, it was equal to \$100,000 dollars with the matching from the Church. It made it a lot easier for the Bishops of the Wards. This building is one block east of the light in town. (400 East and Lagoon Street).

I went into the bottling business just about the time I left as Stake President in 1956. We had the 7-UP and Pepsi franchises, along with Dad's Root Beer and all the different flavors. We increased the business there quite a bit from the time that I went in. Larson had his top sales at 15,000 cases of Pepsi, and 11,000 cases of 7-UP. Our first year it went to 18,000 and 15,000 and in '58 it went to 24,000 and 21,000 cases. We almost doubled what Mr. Larson did while he had the bottling company. We had 123 percent of the priority in our sales in 7-UP. This was for Christmas week. They gave us a special

sighting for that. Pepsi-Cola sent my wife and me to Jamaica on a trip. We had fun. It was kind of different. They paid all the expenses and whatever was essential there. We were there about a week. People did a lot of walking there. They didn't have many cars. Men, women and children walked everywhere they went. It's not a big island. We flew right over Cuba. We looked down and could see the coral right down in the water. It was interesting.

Hollis: (Reading from history) "Our one rarity in Jamaica is the Allspice. This spice grows no other place in the world. They have tried to propagate them through transplants, seedlings, grafting, from seed and as many ways they could. None have grown, except on the island of Jamaica. This is propagated in one way only. That way is for a bird to eat the seed and somehow the chemistry of the bird's body give the seed the necessary life." They just can't get it to grow anywhere else except Jamaica. "Columbus discovered Jamaica in 1494, he spent the winter in the area. It was beautiful clear mountain stream. I do not know whether this was on the same voyage that he discovered the western hemisphere or if he had gone back and returned. The transportation in Jamaica is a two-wheel cart pulled by a three ponies or donkeys." The main street had black-top. The cows would lay right down on that blacktop and the way those guys would travel and honk their horn and try to get the animal out of the way, I don't know how they kept from wrecking. The cows would just lay there and chew their cud.

My wife wrote a little poem:

I like the way you scrub my floors,
And at dishes you're a dandy,
You're not so bad at making beds,
With the baby, you're really handy.
So in view of the situation
I had better speak my mind
I don't think I could replace you
So won't you be my Valentine?

My in-laws had twelve children, the Byron Goodrich family.

Turned tape off as Hollis was sorting his thoughts.

We met at a scout dinner in Provo. A man by the name of Mardikian, George Mardikian, came over here [United States] as just a boy, twelve or fifteen years old. He started to work in the Omar Kyamm Restaurant in San Francisco, California. He knew my son's mother-in-law, Viola Horrocks, before she was married. They both came from Armenia. He was called in by the military, during World War II. They had a lot of rice for the soldiers. They didn't know how to cook it, so they threw it away. They called in George Mardikian, who owned the café, by then, having worked there for fourteen dollars a week. He went from one group of enlisted men to another, teaching them how to cook the rice. Anyway, he came to Provo to talk to the scouters. My wife and I went out to it. I

was working in scouts at that time. Quote from personal history, “ At the fellowship dinner of scouting in Provo, we heard George Mardikian, an Armenian refugee from World War I, address the confab. He is an inspiration to hear and one who really appreciates this good land of America. His subject was the Song of America. He has written a book by that title. Elaine and I went with the school board to San Francisco in 1970. We visited the Omar Kyamm Restaurant.” We went down in there. It is down a hallway. He hasn’t built it up. He has just made it famous where it was.

Ellen: You were active in the Scouting Program.

Hollis: It was when I was Stake President. It really was involved with that. There is where we put on the first breakfast for the 24th of July in Roosevelt to make our assessment. Because of my working with scouting on finance of things they gave me a Silver Beaver on April 13, 1962. When we went to Silver Beaver Meeting, that is why we got to hear George Mardikian. I can’t remember whether I got it that night but we wanted to hear George Mardikian speak. I think it was before that when I received the Silver Beaver. A lady by the name of Verda Campbell was a Stake Primary President. We instituted the Cub Scout Program. She received the Silver Fawn, I think it was called, a few years after I got the Silver Beaver. They have changed the Silver Fawn now to all Silver Beaver. You could not get that award away from her. She sent me a thank you gram. Her message was; “You must be the special one to thank so very much, for the nomination run, and the lovely secret touch. It was a great honor and such fun the Silver Fawn to receive, without a crutch.”

I was chairman of the UBIC. It had been set for many years for the weekend of the first full week of August. In spite of this the Vernal Professional Rodeo was scheduled right at the same time. We worried as to know how it would affect us but the attendance was all we could accommodate and it proved to be no problem. I was chairman in 1962. I have tried to be involved in the community always rather than just living. Being chairman was an interesting thing. I got to meet the people from outside the program. It was quite an interesting affair.

There were three stake presidents prior to me. William H. Smart was the first stake president. He was over the stakes in Vernal and Heber. He was released from Heber when he came to Vernal. He was shifted from Vernal to Duchesne, but it was in Roosevelt, and then from Duchesne to Roosevelt. Roosevelt has been the stake ever since then except it has been divided. Duchesne and Roosevelt were divided into two stakes. Roosevelt has four stakes now, maybe they only have three. There are Roosevelt, Roosevelt East and Roosevelt West Stakes.

I was on the Duchesne District school board. I was able to hand out the diplomas at High School graduations. I served for two terms, eight years. People wanted me to run again and I told them no. I had served long enough. I like to see positions given to more people so they understand what they have to be up against. When I went in the school board, we

had three members on there that had gone to seed. They thought they could just run things the way they wanted to, no matter what. One other thing we had Union High School, at that time, in the Duchesne School District. We divided the operating funds. Part coming from Duchesne and the other part coming from Uintah District. At various times, Uintah wanted to have a meeting about something or another. These three that had gone to seed said, "Let the Uintah people come here if they want a meeting." They would not even go to Union High School to the meeting. They thought they could run however they wanted to. I decided that I would not be there more than eight years, that was long enough and let someone else do it. They will find out what kind of a job it is.

It was while I was on the school board, we had the feeling that we ought to have a vocational school. The Superintendent and teachers did not want to give credit for any higher education information like they do now. Now they get almost a full years schooling before they get out of high school. The instructors at that time did not want that to happen. We got that passed so that every senior in the county could get their associate degrees at the same time as getting their high school diploma. We talked with Uintah School Board and we had an understanding, at least I thought, that we would go fifty fifty on it. When we got around to finance it, which was about \$300,000, Uintah had changed their mind and didn't come in with any money. Governor Cal Rampton said that we have \$100,000 in a miscellaneous fund of some kind. He gave us that. We had a \$100,000 left over from bonds that the school boards had taken out. That gave us \$200,000. I don't remember how we got the other \$100,000. We built that little six-sided vocational school. That was the building that gave us the vocational seed to get us the vocational program we have now. It is a wonderful program. With that vocational money, we started a program that has come to be what it is now. It is called: Uintah Basin Applied Technology College. While I was on the school board, Dan Dennis was kind of just floating around, Jim Bacon and I went to him and asked him to be the candidate for State Representative. He accepted. It took quite a little bit of persuasion to get him to say yes. His wife had not been well. He felt like he ought to spend time with her. We kind of twisted his arm and he said, "Yes". He went in with a landslide victory. Everybody knew him. He had treated all of the cows, cats, and dogs. He was a veterinarian. Back ten or twelve year prior to that, Benny Schmielt went in as State Representative and Cliff Memmott went in as Senator. The legislature approved a junior college at Roosevelt but they did not fund it. Dan Dennis hadn't been in long when he called me on the phone. He told me, "Things might be in order that we can get a little money for that Junior College. I would like to have you get on the ball and see what you can do about getting some help." So I did. I was chairman of the group that were able to get funding for the Junior College. It went down to a point for the very last thing to get through the legislature that year. In fact, nearly all the bill that went through the legislature had to be presented the year before, especially finance bills. They wouldn't even look at it for another year. He said, "I think maybe we can do something about getting through." We had the very finest group we could possibly get on this committee. Not too much credit can be give to many many local supporters of the venture. Committees and various groups, as well as individuals were untiring in doing whatever was possible. There were however, some who we must mention. Dr. Daniel S. Dennis, our Representative, evidenced great finesse

and ability in handling people and the situations under many conditions of stress and strain. Clifton N. Memmott and Benny Schmielt, who worked so hard for the bill when it was first presented in 1959. Even though they had moved from the area, continued to give real support. Dr. R. Vernon Larson, who was formerly a state school board member, was an advocate of education and loyal enthusiast for the Junior College Program. Alva C. Snow, was on the board of trustees of the USU and has been an invaluable aid. Merrill J. Millett and Arvin Bellon being banker and postmaster. Keith Bergquist, J. C. Penny manager; Dean Frandsen, owner of the car, body and fender shop; Blaine Morrill, Uintah County Commissioner and successful farmer; Dr. Calvin Kowalis, optometrist; Mr. Edmond Emmons, assistant superintendent of the Bureau of Land in Indian Affairs at Fort Duchesne; and Robert F. Clyde, our Senator from Wasatch County, a real statesman and gentlemen. That was the committee. We felt like they were the top men in the area. When Dan Dennis presented this, in general, none of the Legislators thought we would get it through. On a given night, it was about 4:00 am, we got down to the point of either passing this or not. Dan Dennis, called me up and said that there was some real opposition to this school finance bill. He asked me to get the committee together. We got the committee together and was out to Salt Lake City about 8:00 am. We haven't been able to find out how it happened but people in general, the Legislators, just wanted to push it aside. It was presented this year and had been all those other years and they weren't going to finance it for another year. We just buttonholed a lot of help and somehow or another, Dan Dennis, started looking for that bill and couldn't find it on anybody's desk. How it got there, somebody knew and they brought it out, the last thing. They found it in a desk, someone had kind of put some papers over it. When it was presented, no one except this committee really thought it would go through. There were two senators that were going to vote against it, but changed their minds with the idea, I don't understand this about the Legislature, if you are going to vote against a thing, you have to vote for it to begin with, then vote for it not to pass. These two men had decided to vote for it with that provision. The next morning, the one that we all showed up, this came before the Legislature, one of the men had got sick and had to leave and I don't remember what happened with the other man, but neither one of those men showed up and it passed by two or three votes. We were able to receive \$300,000 to start the program. During Christmas of that week, I don't remember the exact date, Governor Calvin Rampton got in touch with me. John Gale was the leading democrat in our area, Dan Dennis, the one that shepherded the bill through, and Bob Clyde, Senator from Heber and he was really with us as far as he could be, but Cal Rampton called me up and wanted to have a meeting with our committee in the Capitol. He had worked with, apparently some ground work, some Legislators from Utah State University. He decided to release the money if the USU would take us as a branch of that University instead of a Junior College. We went before their board and presented what we would like to have done and we got the \$300,000. They accepted the fact that Roosevelt would be a branch of the college, rather than a Junior College. We felt like it was an advantage to us because whatever credits they got the college, it would be credited already. They would not have to go from a Junior College to a University to receive the proper credits. They accepted to have a College branch which was the first in the state of Utah. That is what we have now,

the branch of the USU and the vocational school [UBATC] on the other side. It doesn't matter where they want to go to school, we have the facility. Because of the diligent work of this committee, degrees can be earned by the people of the Uintah Basin.

When I went in as Bishop for the second time, it was just twenty years since the time before, 1947 and 1967. My counselors that time were Randall Stewart and Howard Ivory. In 1947, we had a lot of welfare need in the ward. We had to find projects for them to work on so they could get enough money to live, even though we gave them both money and some provisions for whatever was necessary. From that time to the next time that I went in as Bishop the whole finance of the area had changed. We had just one or two people that needed Church assistance.

Ellen: Had the economy got better in Roosevelt. Was the economy better because of the oil field growth?

Hollis: That was part of it. There was an oil boom in 1973. We just didn't have the people on welfare or the need that we had before. It made it all together, a different type program that we had to administer in the ward.

Ellen: By that time; there was the government welfare. Do you think that some of those people had gone on the government welfare?

Hollis: Well, they probably had. I never was on the county commission, so I don't know. I thought there might be one time that I was going to make it on the county commission, but I didn't.

Ellen: Did you ever have a reason to go to Victory Park?

Hollis: We operated Victory Park as a Stake for a period of time. It was built by a local dentist, Dr. Campbell, in 1945. It had a swimming pool just dug out of the earth, with dressing rooms. It was operated as a dance facility for quite a few years without any particular standards. There was liquor, and fights nearly every night. They also had boxing bouts there. My daughter, Faye, remembers going roller skating there once with a school class. The Roosevelt Stake used it for Stake dances for at least five years, until 1958, when the new Stake Center was built in Roosevelt. Gold and Green Balls were held there, too. Jesse Hullinger was on the Stake High Council. One of his assignments was to be the "bouncer" for the unruly element who sometimes came to the Saturday night Stake dances at Victory Park.

(Highway 40 was called Victory Highway in 1945 because of the war ending. Victory Park was on that highway east of Roosevelt, between Ballard and Gusher. Victory Highway went from coast to coast.)

Session 3:

March 15, 2007

Ellen: Hollis, I have found out that you were mayor of Roosevelt. Will you tell us about that position.

Hollis: It was from 1974 through 1977. I served one term. I went to work in the Provo Temple and they asked that we not have any outside responsibilities. If I had known just exactly what was going to happen I just as well of kept it for another four years. People wanted me to, but I didn't.

Ellen: The people liked you as mayor.

Hollis: Yes, I think they did. We got a lot of things done. Have you been to the Constitution Park up there on the hill? That's the last project we did while I was mayor. Jay Gates and Gordy Harmston really ram-rodged that thing. They did a good job of it and were able to get the county to furnish all the equipment to do the land work. We got in those four baseball diamonds, back to back.

We had lots of dirt roads in town. We decided to do something about the roads. One of the first projects we started was to survey for the roads. Among other things, roads had been put in areas where they didn't belong to Roosevelt City. We had to annex land into Roosevelt. There is a whole block that had to be annexed into the city. All of those people were living in the county and paying city taxes. I don't know how they got by with that but that is the way it was. During the time I was mayor we ran fifteen miles of black top in Roosevelt and corresponding amount of concrete sidewalk. We doubled the miles of black top that was here.

In addition to that we put in a new sewer system. The need in town had outgrown the system that we had. We put it in some hills way down in Ballard where it was out of the way of everyone. Ballard had not utilized the sewer system yet. We were able to get federal grants for this project. As I remember, Roosevelt paid about one million dollars of this project cost. It was about a four million dollar project. We got approval from Uintah County to complete the project but as far as the project itself was concerned Roosevelt City did that. We used the affluence of that project to irrigate alfalfa. After I left the mayor, we had an influx of people, so we had more sewer water so that was cut off out there. There was still water going into it but not sufficient for irrigation. There were several lagoons that we put in. We pumped out of them and it went through a process to remove all the paper stuff so it wouldn't plug up the system. That was taken care of by some type of sludge remover. That was in an area completely outdistanced from any thing in Roosevelt up till that time.

We put in a new airport. The agency that the airport was under required that we pay a certain price for the land, which was actually more than we had bargained with the man

to pay him. They didn't want him to be able to come back on them and sue them for something or another. So, we paid a little more for the land, in fact, quite a bit more for the land than we could have done. The airport now is doing quite a service to the area with the oil people going in and out like they do. The airport at the time I went in was running north and south. We had a prevailing wind here from the west. It tipped on plane over and killed a couple. We got a spot of ground for a new airport out west of town. The runway is running east and west there. It was a pretty serious wind. When planes come in, they are pretty light. The speed they come in, they want to set them down easy. I don't know much about piloting a plane. When that plane came in, tipping over and killing that man and his wife was before I was mayor. We put in the black top from town going west where it turns off to Ioka. The state did that but it was because of our pushing it, instigating it, they did it. Then after that, they did Vernal's street widening. We put started this building, the financial part of it while I was mayor. It was after I left mayor that the building actually started. The county did all the finish land leveling and digging. The rest went by contract for the whole thing. It is a million dollar building here. The Roosevelt Elementary school used to be right here where this building is now. The present city offices and this building were part of the elementary school once. Part of the building was two-story. They had built it in increments as they could. When it was taken down, they put in this new building. I was chairman of the committee that put this building here. My wife and I did quite a bit. She and a friend of hers, Dorothy Johnson, they were head of the dance program for the senior citizens in Roosevelt. We teamed up with Vernal for about ten year. It was a really good dance program. We all went to Vernal on a Friday night and then all went to Roosevelt on Tuesday night. If we needed anything to eat, we would have a big pot luck. It was before our germs, so no one got sick. (Giggle). At this point of our interview the Uintah Basin Standard reporter came in to interview Hollis. Parts of this interview I am going to insert back into the previous portions where they might fit best.

I was appointed to Governor Rampton's Advisory Council of Community Affairs in January of 1974. Page 139 He was released to Governor Mathison and I was asked to be on the State Land Board. I was with the employees and the agency people. That is when they started having the Uinta Basin Association of Governments. I was chairman of that board. There was Duchesne, Uintah, and Daggett Counties involved. That is when the aging program came in and they started the Meals-on-Wheels program and other programs that were aiding elderly people. The first senior center was the living room where Dr. Larson lived on about 150 _____ just east of the present park. From there we moved out the mosquito spraying project (giggle). The county gave that to the senior citizens. It was out south of town on Highway 40 and off from the highway about a half of a mile. We had these dances in this little hall that wasn't much bigger than Dr. Larson's front room and the county gave us this piece of land and the building that was there. After we had used it for a couple of years, we decided to put a floor into it and insulate it. We wanted to fix it so it was a nice building. We did. It was while I was chairman of the Senior Program here in Roosevelt area. That is when we started this dance program. There were about twenty-five or thirty extra ladies every dance night. So we had mixer after mixer so they all had a chance to have a dance. It was while we were

in there that the genesis of this building came to be. We were talking about just a senior center and as time went on it enlarged and enlarged until we involved the library here. The city was paying an annual assessment on the library. Well, they found out that it was illegal to do that. It had to belong to the county. The county took the cost of operating the building which was just about equal to the city had been paying in taxes and operation. The city took over the payment of the bills of the note on this building and the county took care of the maintenance. It was just about the same amount of money. Now it was handled the proper legal way. There were over fifty marriages from this senior dance program and very few divorces. That is how Grace and I came to be.

When I was mayor I worked with the Indians. On the very evening that they were having a combined Indian meeting over to Fort Duchesne. I didn't know that they and we were having two meetings at that time. We were in the meeting here and thought there would be good come from it instead of concern that the Indians were not obeying the law in Roosevelt. The Indians would come to Roosevelt and not obey the law but the police did not have authority to arrest them, they would take them back to Ft. Duchesne. The Indians would beat the police back to Roosevelt. There was one program in Spearfish, South Dakota; Boston, Massachusetts; and others. We tried to get the federal and state governments awake to the fact that the Utes here had issued what they called their "Law and Order Code". I never did get to see a copy of it. While we were in this meeting with the police force, I thought it went pretty well and we dismissed and went home. Come to find out, all the authority in the Indian department was in another meeting putting Roosevelt under the jurisdiction of the Tribe. We were working with the police and they were working with political end of things. They claimed to have the property from the head of Daniel's Canyon to half way to Vernal. There was a sign they put up on the flat after going through half-way hollow going to Vernal. Roosevelt was right in the middle of that and they claimed jurisdiction over the legal business of Roosevelt City. We had to really work on the state and federal government to help us get out of this. I don't remember how it was all done but Rulon Anderton and I went to Montana to a meeting and then I went to Boston, Massachusetts for a meeting all about the jurisdiction of Indians. We had the meeting during the evening in a motel, a nice motel right in the middle of an Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The Indians were claiming jurisdiction over the whites up there just like the Utes were trying to do here in Roosevelt. They would not let someone drive across their property to get home. They blocked them off in one night. I don't remember all the things we did to get Roosevelt expunged from their authority but we were finally able to do so. I would not be surprised if the Indians would not try something like this again.

Ellen: I want to tell you how impressed I am by hearing all the wonderful things you have accomplished through your life. You must have felt a lot of pressure in your life.

Hollis: I must have dealt with it so it didn't bother me. I could sleep at nights.

